

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 17, with the following paragraph:

A versatile operating system (OS) such as Windows^(TM) available from Microsoft Corporation, UNIX^(TM), LINUX^(TM), and the like adopts a tree representation as a graphic user interface (GUI) that visually presents a tree-like directory structure and file structure to the user and navigates the user to a specific directory or file. Among ~~nodes~~ nodes of this tree representation, information (files and the like) contained in an upper node and that contained in a lower node have neither an inheritance relation nor an inclusive or subset relation, and nodes on a tree starting from a root ~~note~~ node are merely holders that store information such as files and the like, i.e., containers, which are connected in a tree pattern. Such structure will be specifically referred to as a "hierarchical file structure" in this specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 6, with the following paragraph:

On the other hand, databases such as an object-oriented database (OODB) and an object-relational database (ORDB) which has appeared as a partially improved version of a relational database (RDB) have a hierarchical structure. The hierarchical structure has a scheme that allows lower classifications to inherit the properties of upper classifications. Such a database is characterized in that properties increase progressively by inheritance in lower classifications. Such scheme that allows lower classifications to inherit the properties of upper classifications is also called "inheritance", and such technique is described in many references (e.g., "Object-Oriented Concepts, Databases, and Applications, Edited by Won Kim, 1989, ACM Press"). In the technical field associated with object-oriented databases (OODB), classifications in a hierarchy are normally called "classes". This specification uses "classification" and "class" as terms having nearly the same meanings.